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ADVERTISER FARM AND HOME HOUR

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #284

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET WMAZ

(11:30-12:30 PM)
TIME(MARCH 11 1966)
DATE(FRIDAY)
DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

MUSIC: QUARTET, UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

ANNOUNCER: The need for trees on the great plains of this country was recognized by the earliest settlers. But too little was known about how best to supply this need. Then crop failures began to increase to alarming proportions. Unprecedented dust storms blew the priceless top soil off much of the farm land. Until, finally it became vitally necessary that along with other programs of soil saving and proper land use, farm forestation be put on a sound, workable basis if many valuable farming areas in the region were to be saved from further economic and social destruction. In 1934 the Plains Shelterbelt Project was organized and the U. S. Forest Service delegated to carry on the work. In order to get better and quicker results from the group planting which was necessary to the operation of the project, a working area or a "shelterbelt zone" was indicated, which was roughly 100 miles wide, and was laid out north and south through the central part of the Great Plains. In 1937 the nature of the project was altered and broadened, and the work became known as the "Prairie States Forestry Project." There has been a great deal of misinformation going around about this project. It was never proposed to plant trees in a solid strip 100 miles wide, or to turn large portions of the plains into forest land. But it is sought to aid farms within this area to have protecting strips of trees called "shelterbelts", planted on their land. The purpose of these farm plantings has been, and is today, to guard the crops and soil against the devastation of the winds, to store up moisture for the crops, and thus to help make one of the most important farming sections in our country a better and more desirable place for the people who work and live there.

ANNOUNCER: (CONTINUED) Well, it's time once more for us to take our weekly trip to the Pine Cone Ranger Station. Ranger Jim Robbins and assistant Ranger Jerry Quick are here in the office --

JERRY: (FADING IN) I'll do my best to finish up that scaling at the lumber camp this afternoon, Jim. I'll scoot right up there after lunch.

JIM: All right, son. I'd like to finish it up as quickly as possible. We've got a lot of work to do getting ready for these spring planting operations.

JERRY: Have you talked with the project superintendent at the CCC camp about them?

JIM: That's where I'll be this afternoon. -- Want another slice of bread, Jerry?

JERRY: Yeah. --- Say, Jim, I've been looking over this material we got from the Prairie States Forestry Project. There's some good stuff in it.

JIM: I haven't had a chance to see it.

JERRY: (RATTLE OF PAPER) There's a diagram of the way they lay out their plantings.

JIM: Uh - huh -- that ought to break the force of the wind, the way it's glanked by shrubs and conifers on both sides.

JERRY: Yeah, with about ten rows of shrubs and trees, from three feet high up to thirty feet, a field of corn oughta get plenty of protection.

JIM: How much land do they digure the shelterbelts to protect?

JERRY: Well, they say an acre of trees will protect about fifteen acres of crops.

JIM: Uh huh - then about 10 to 14 acres of windbreaks, say, would take care of an average 160 acre farm.

JERRY: Yeah. I think one of the smartest things they do on that project is collecting their own seed for nursery stock.

JIM: Well, it stands to reason that you'll get better trees from seed that's already accustomed to the kind of conditions it'll grow in.

JERRY: Yeah -- Oh, here comes Mary. She said she'd be over this noon.

JIM: Isn't she mad at you any more for making time with Elmira?

JERRY: (LAUGHING) Aw, she never was sore, Jim. She's only acted like it so I'd be stuck with Elmira.

JIM: I guess it'll be a long time before you'll offer to teach anybody how to ski.

JERRY: I didn't offer to teach her. She invited herself along.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) That's not much of an alibi.

DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

JERRY: Hi, Mary. I saw you coming across the yard.

MARY: (LIFELESSLY) Hello, Jerry. Hello, Mr. Robbins.

JIM: Glad to see you, Mary. How's the skiing these days?

MARY: Oh, it's all right.

JERRY: Jim's been razzing me about Elmira for about the 100th time.

JIM: I think Jerry ought to start a ski school, don't you, Mary?

MARY: I suppose so.

JERRY: Hey, what's wrong, Mary? You act like something's bothering you.

MARY: Oh, something terrible happened at school this morning, Jerry.

JERRY: What's that, Mary?

JIM: I thought you were upset about something.

MARY: I don't know when anything has made me feel so badly.

JERRY: What happened, Mary?

MARY: You remember the Jansen family, who've been living in the trailer camp all winter?

JERRY: Sure. Jim's been trying to help him get some work.

MARY: Well, they have a little boy in my room at school. And this morning, while we were having our history lesson, he fainted.

JIM: Fainted, huh?

JERRY: What did you do, Mary?

MARY: I didn't know what to do. But I picked him up off the floor and one of the children helped me take him out in the other room. Oh, he was so thin it was pitiful. I was afraid to try to do anything for him. I didn't know what might be wrong. The only thing I could think to do was to take him to Doctor Peters.

JIM: That's the best thing you could have done.

JERRY: Did you find out what was wrong with him?

MARY: Doctor Peters said he was sure the boy hadn't had enough to eat.

JIM: Did he come around all right, Mary?

MARY: He's better now. The doctor fed him some broth and put him to bed. We asked him why he hadn't had any food, and he said his father couldn't find any work. And he was so brave about it. He told us his daddy had promised him there'd be something to eat when he got home from school tonight.

JIM: Will Doc keep the boy at his house 'till he gets better?

MARY: Yes, he insisted on it. -- I've got to take those people something to eat right this afternoon. If I only known they were so needy.

JIM: Too bad Bess isn't here to help you. She always knows what to do about such things.

MARY: Yes. I wish she'd hurry and come back. -- Mr. Robbins, isn't there some kind of work you can get for Mr. Janseñ?

JIM: No, Mary, there isn't a blessed thing. I've been trying to help him find something to do.

MARY: I just know he'd be glad to do anything.

JERRY: Of course he would, Mary, and he's a good worker. But we can't make jobs around here when there's no money to pay for them.

JIM: I'll try again and see if I can run onto something around town, after I get back from the camp this afternoon.

MARY: Would Al Perkins be likely to need any men at the lumber camp?

JERRY: I'm going out there right after we eat. I'll ask him.

JIM: I reckon Jansen's thought of all the places he have. I know he's tried hard enough to get work.

MARY: I don't see how they live at all, waiting from one week to the next for something to turn up. It's a wonder they wouldn't try to find some place where there's some work going on.

JERRY: I suppose they haven't ever had money enough to get away.

MARY: Where did they come from?

JERRY: I don't know, do you, Jim?

JIM: I can't say I do, Mary -- you know -- I believe I'll ask Jansen to come over here to the office tonight. There may be something he can do that might help get him a job.

MARY: Why don't you, Mr. Robbins? It won't hurt to talk to him anyway. -- When will Mrs. Robbins be back?

JIM: I don't know, Mary. I s'pect she'll want to visit with her folks a while. She hasn't seen them for several years.

MARY: Well, I'm coming over and cook supper for you two tonight.

JIM: Oh, we can make out all right, Mary. We've batched it before, you know.

MARY: Well, I'm coming anyhow. Look at the way you're eating your lunch right now. Bread and butter and coffee - and eating it right here in the office. That's no proper lunch for working men.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, it's mighty nice of you, Mary. I expect we can eat supper if you cook it.

MARY: I will -- And I'll want to know about Mr. Jansen tonight too.

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

JIM: (FADING IN) It's about time Jerry was back from the lumber camp. It's nearly eight.

MARY: After I fixed such a nice supper for him. Do you think I should keep it for him, Mr. Robbins?

JIM: I reckon he ate at the camp.

MARY: Well - now I know what Mrs. Robbins has had to put up with. I don't know whether I'd put up with it or not.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Maybe you'll have to sometime, wife.

MARY: I suppose so. - Did I tell you I took some things to the Jansens this afternoon? They were the most grateful people I ever saw. And they couldn't thank me enough for taking care of their boy.

JIM: Is he any better tonight?

MARY: I called Doctor Peters before you came in. He's going to keep the child for a few days, just to be sure he's all right.

JIM: I didn't have much luck trying to locate something for Jansen to do, but there may be a possibility of some farm work, -- if he could do work of that kind.

MARY: He looked so discouraged when I was there. He said he's been everywhere asking for work.

JIM: He said he'd be here tonight didn't he?

MARY: Yes, about eight o'clock.

JIM: Well, I'd sure like to find some concrete way to help him -- to give him a chance to get on his feet again.

DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

JERRY: (FADING IN) Hi, folks. -- Gee, I'm sorry I didn't get home for supper, Mary. Hope you haven't been waiting for me.

MARY: No, I didn't, Jerry, but you might have let us know you'd be late. - Have you eaten?

JERRY: Yeah. I had chow with the boys at the camp. I wanted to finish that piece of scaling before I left and I didn't get it done 'till pretty late.

JIM: Did you ask Al about putting Jensen to work?

JERRY: Yeah, Jim. But he said they're gonna have to let a few of their extra men go next week. Things are kinda slow right now. Did you scare up anything?

JIM: Nothing much. Maybe a possibility of some farm work if he knows anything about that kind of work. He'll be here pretty soon, I guess.

JERRY: Gee, it's sure tough finding work these days. Even if something did turn up, it wouldn't be likely to last very long.

JIM: I know. But anything would help some.

KNOCK ON DOOR

MARY: That must be Mr. Jansen now. (FADING) I'll let him in

JERRY: I wanta get rid of this coat and overshoes. (FADING) I'll be right back, Jim.

DOOR OPENS

MARY: (OFF) Won't you come in, Mr. Jansen?

JANSEN: (QUIET, SINCERE - OFF) Thank you, ma'am.

JIM: Come right in, Jansen. Let me take your coat for you.

DOOR CLOSES

JANSEN: (FADING IN) Thank you, Mr. Robbins.

MARY: (FADING IN) How's your boy feeling tonight, Mr. Jansen?

JANSEN: He's a whole lot better, ma'am. I don't know how to thank you, Miss Halliwell, for all you done for us. My wife says for me to be sure and tell you agsin how much we appreciate everything.

MARY: Goodness, I'm only sorry we couldn't do more.

JANSEN: Soon as we get ourselves straightened out we'll pay it back to you somehow.

MARY: Don't you think of it. It's a pity if neighbors can't help each other out once in a while. If you'll excuse me, (FADING) I've got to finish up with things in the kitchen.

JIM: How long have you been in Winding Creek, Mr. Jansen?

JANSEN: Since last fall. I'd been followin' the harvest, you see, and I come up this way loo'in' for work in the lumber camps.

JIM: Ever done any lumbering before?

JANSEN: No, I haven't. That seems to be the big reason why I can't get anything to do.

JIM: It's got to be a pretty technical job nowadays, with all the machinery they use.

JERRY: (FADING IN) Hello, Mr. Jansen.

JANSEN: How are you, Mr. Quick.

JERRY: First rate, thanks. I hear your boy kinda keeled over today. I hope he's all right now.

JANSEN: He's doin' all right, now that the Doctor's takin' care of him.

JERRY: Is he the only youngster you have?

JANSEN: Yes --- we had a girl two years younger. She died last winter.

JERRY: Oh, I'm sorry.

JIM: Have you been -- traveling around very long, Mr. Jansen?

JANSEN: About four years now, I guess.

JIM: Would you rather travel around the country or would you settle down in one place if you got a permanent job of some kind?

JANSEN: I'd give anything in the world to settle down somewhere. I was hoping I'd have a chance to stay here. But it sure don't look like it now.

JERRY: What kind of work have you done?

JANSEN: I've done all kinds. But farmin's my line.

JIM: Where have you farmed?

JANSEN: I've got a place on the plains.

JERRY: You mean you still own a farm?

JANSEN: If you can call it that now. Maybe it's gone for taxes.

JIM: On the plains, you say?

JANSEN: Yeah.

JERRY: Isn't there anybody working it now?

JANSEN: What's the use? It don't pay.

JERRY: The drought sure hit that section a real one.

JANSEN: It wasn't only the drought. It was the wind and the sand and the sun and the grasshoppers --- everything!

JIM: Didn't your farm make you a better living? Better than -- what you have now?

JANSEN: It used to. It paid money once. But it got so every time you put a crop in the ground the wind blows it out of town. It did. We put a lot of work on our place, my wife and I. We were beginning to make some headway for awhile, but then we lost one crop after another. We stuck to it as long as we could and then we left.

JERRY: You haven't been back since then?

JANSEN: We couldn't. There's never been enough money. And as time went on we got in again and again. -- Not after we'd put so much into it and had it all go for nothing. Even since we've been living like transients -- in a trailer -- going from one place to another trying to find work -- selling our clothes to buy gas for the car -- sending our kids to school wherever we could find one -- about half the time -- hunger all the time -- and moving -- moving -- all the time MOVING --

JIM: (PAUSE) I've heard about some of those farms like yours -- in the plains country.

JERRY: Yeah. I was just looking at some stuff today about Shelterbelt planting out there. They're planting 4,000 miles of Shelterbelts this spring.

JANSEN: Oh. I planted trees on my place. But wind got them, too.

JIM: What kind of trees did you plant?

JANSEN: I got some first class seedlings from a nursery back home.

JIM: It says his farm is in Copello County --

JANSEN: Let me see

REEL OF PAPER

JERRY: Is your farm near his?

JANSEN: Yes. Just east of his place

JIM: That county has a lot of shelterbelts now. I think the farmers have been planting trees as fast as they can get them.

JANSEN: (WITH GROWING INTEREST) But how do they make 'em live? They'd have to be irrigated.

JERRY: No they don't. The Forest Service furnishes the trees to see that they get planted the right way. And the farmer helps 'em along by keeping them cultivated and protecting them 'till they get a good start.

JANSEN: They furnish trees, did you say?

JERRY: As far as they can. There's more applications for 'em than we can take care of. Anyway, a farmer can get trees from the State through the Clarke-McNary law.

JANSEN: (EAGERLY) Then if they've planted trees -- and they're getting crops again -- maybe my land would be worth another try.

JIM: I can't say, Jansen. Trees won't do everything, you know. It takes the right kind of cropping practice and a lot of other things. But tree belts might help.

JAMSEY: I'll do it -- I'll try it again. Wilson was going to leave his place when I did. But he changed his mind and will stay for another year. If he's growing, maybe he'll leave I can do it too. Yes, sir, I'm going back home as soon as I get on my feet again, -- if I ever can get on my feet again.

JIM: Well now, seeing as you like farming, there's a possibility for some farm work I need about near here, if you'd care to --

JAMSEY: Will I work? You bet I will. And as soon as -- as -- can I take these pictures with me? I'll return 'em to you.

JIM: Sure. You can keep 'em if you want 'em.

JAMSEY: I want to show 'em to my wife. She won't be able to be any if unless she sees them. She'll be glad to see pictures of home like these. (FADING) I'll tell her we're going back as soon as ---

MUSIC.

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you every Friday on the Farm and Home Hour through the courtesy of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

mc: 3/10/58: 3:25 A

